

**East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)**  
Eastern Montgomery Regional Center  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

**Wednesday, January 3, 2018**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Members Present:** Roy Chavera, Fisseha Adugna, Peter Myo Khin, Jerold Samet, Kristin McConnell, Elisse Barnes, Donald Hague, Jeffrey Bond, Hildegard Sylla, Sharon Brown, Curtis Watkins, Fatmata Barrie and Laiza Otero, Christopher Bolton

**Guests Present:** Councilmember Craig Rice, Dr. Jack Smith, Michael Durso, Ed Weiler, Dan Wilhem, Mark Pharaoh, Mara Parker, Brian Anleu, Vikki Garcia, Robin Riley, Christ Burt, Odessa Shannon, Brenda Wollf, Michael Durso, Judy Ducca, Barrington Bo Scott, Charisse Scott, Tiffani Rogers, Eneshel Miller, Melissa Mckenna, Paul Geller, Michelle Dean, Dan Wallace, Margaret Poore, Angela Austin, Rob Richardson, Anthony Ramirez, Stacey Brown, Mike Miehl, Mensah Adjogah, Nichola Wallen, Quintaroa Brunson, Margie Goergen Rood, Robyn Ivy, Harriett Quinn, Shana Davis, Craig Wilson, Fatmata Koroma Bangura, Rebecca Smondrowski.

**Staff Present:** Catherine Matthews, Linda Cooper

**Community attendee(s)** were provided the opportunity to raise concerns that they wanted to have addressed at the appropriate time during the meeting. No specific concerns were raised.

**Approval of the December 6, 2017 Meeting Summary:** A motion was made to approve the December 6, 2017 summary. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Presentation by Special Guests:** Councilmember Craig Rice, Montgomery County Council District 2, Michael A. Durso, President, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Board of Education, Dr. Jack Smith, Superintendent, MCPS, and Rebecca R. Smondrowski, Board Member, MCPS Board of Education were present to discuss topics of interest regarding the MCPS system. Topics of discussion included, but was not limited to, the following:

- **Councilmember Rice** discussed the ongoing need to address opportunity and achievement gaps within the MCPS system and the need for equal access to learning resources and early childhood education;
- **Mr. Durso** discussed the general functions of the Board of Education and gave notice of public budget hearings on January 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.
- **Dr. Smith** discussed general focus issues for MCPS, including the needs of non-English speaking students. He also discussed the newly created Seal of Bi-literacy designation for Maryland high school diplomas and the overwhelming proportion of MCPS students who achieved the designation.

Questions were posed to the guests, resulting in discussions on the following topics:

- The need to create a special education program more specific to the needs of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, the need for an increased budget for such programs, and the need for a greater distribution of programs across the county;
- Methods to address the needs of students learning English as a second language;
- Magnet programs and other means to give opportunities to students with different capabilities, while ensuring that all students meet baseline achievement goals;
- Methods used to identify and address the needs of students who do not have family structure in place to support learning, including being culturally aware and believing what is possible for such students to achieve;
- Accountability of MCPS effectiveness through the use of school, district and external assessments;
- Continued need to support after-school programs;
- Burnt Mills Elementary expansion needs will be addressed through new CIP approval criteria which will allow for allocation of funds sooner; and
- PARCC Assessment is State-mandated and requires less than 2% of students' time.

**ECCAB Sub-Committees Chairs for Planning/Economic Development and Quality of Life**

**Updates:** **ECCAB Chair Peter Myo Khin** reported that the Economic Development Committee was given a presentation on the Energized Public Space Functional Plan and will view a presentation of the Bicycle Master Plan at the next meeting. The Quality of Life Committee reviewed short-term solutions to improving safety on Route 198 and will receive a follow-up presentation from the DOT in the spring.

**Update from Council Staff:** Representative Brian Anleu commented on the reported Montgomery County budget shortfall and the need for the County Council to address it.

**New Business:** **ECCAB Chair Peter Myo Khin** notified attendees of the County Executive's public budget meeting scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** This meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.